

MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR



Thanh-Lo Sananikone
PacMar, Inc.
State of Hawaii

As a recognized leader in the minority business community in the Asian Pacific region, **Thanh-Lo Sananikone** has been actively involved in the formation and ongoing development of community based multi-ethnic organizations within Hawaii which serve the needs of immigrant and underserved groups throughout the state. A bilingual business management consultant, her skills and knowledge have built bridges for economic development and trade from our island state to the growing Pacific and Southeast Asian countries. A key focus for Sananikone's efforts has been directed to educational opportunities for minority youth. *Nominated by: Angie Lau, Central Pacific Bank.*

For more than 17 years, **Jean Williams** has worked to improve the odds for minority and women-owned businesses. In 2002, she received an award to open the Minority Business Development Center of Honolulu. Her reputation and credibility allow her to form strategic partnerships with key business people and government officials. By leveraging these partnerships, Williams is able to assist and advocate for minority entrepreneurs who are in dire need of support and assistance. Prior to opening the MBDC, she has been with UH College of Continuing Education, a senior consultant with Grant Thornton LLP, Oahu Center director for the Hawaii SBDC and an independent consultant. *Nominated by: Randy Lu and Gwen Yamamoto Lau, City Bank.*



Jean Williams
MBDC of Honolulu
City & County of Honolulu



Constance Cate
Hawaii SBDC Network
County of Hawaii

Constance Cate, the East Hawaii Director for the Hawaii SBDC Network, has been actively working to develop minority owned small businesses her entire career. Armed with an MBA and CPA, she is highly qualified to provide in-depth counseling to sustain existing firms and to start new firms in today's tough economy. Whether she is in Waipahu, on Oahu's North Shore, in Ka'u or Honokaa, more than half her clientele have been minorities, women, active military personnel and veterans. Her proactive approach takes her out of her office to reach businesses in Honokaa, Pahoa, and Hilo to diversify and revitalize small businesses and the workforce for a stronger economic future in Hawaii. *Nominated by: Art Taniguchi, Bank of Hawaii.*

Molokai born and raised, **Barbara Jean Haliniak**, President of the Molokai Chamber of Commerce, has reinvigorated her local organization to facilitate positive economic progress and awareness of the needs of Molokai's existing and developing small businesses. With persistence and determination, Haliniak has produced well attended meetings and forums with outstanding speakers from across Hawaii, increased membership and identified opportunities in the Molokai Community. *Nominated by: Bennette Evangelista, Central Pacific Bank.*



Barbara Jean Haliniak
Molokai Chamber of Commerce
County of Maui